



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 22, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2011-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program

In June, Michigan received a new five-year cycle of funding for the Charter School Grant Program. This \$43,923,957 grant from the U.S. Department of Education is a continuation of previous cycles of funding, and is for the purpose of making subgrants to Public School Academy (PSA) development teams or operational PSAs in order to:

- strengthen the pool of applicants available to Michigan charter authorizers,
- support successful charter recipients to implement the schools they proposed,
- enable charters with strong student achievement to mentor start-up schools.

The approved grant proposal identifies criteria to be used for competitively selecting grantees. These criteria are submitted here for State Board of Education action.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the 2011-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 22, 2011.

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MICHIGAN  
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Criteria for the 2011-15 Michigan Charter School Grant Program

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Significant and meaningful improvement in the academic performance of all students/children with major emphasis on the persistently lowest achieving schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

The grant program will strengthen the pool of applicants to Michigan charter authorizers by supporting early stage applicants through financial assistance and technical support. The required technical support portion of the grant program will ensure that public school academy (PSA) developers are informed early in their planning processes about Board and Governance responsibilities; about learning and teaching models demonstrating powerful improvement in achievement, graduation rates and post-secondary education rate; about Principles of Universal Education, Positive Behavior Support, Anti-Bullying, and Seclusion and Restraint, among other topics.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

X Competitive    ☐ Formula    ☐ New    X Continuation    *(check all that apply)*

The 2011-2015 Michigan Charter School Grant Program is designed to provide PSA developers and eligible existing PSAs with financial assistance to meet their start-up educational and operational needs. In addition, PSAs that have been in operation for at least three consecutive years and have demonstrated overall success, including strong academic achievement, may apply for a dissemination grant to evaluate and document a best practice or to mentor a new school development team.

This grant program is supported by a federal grant authorized by Title V, Part B, Public Charter Schools Program (PCSP), Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, administered by the United States Department of Education (USED). The State of Michigan will receive \$43,923,957 over the five-year period of the grant, to be subgranted to eligible PSAs.

**CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved: July 30, 2007

☐ Defined in Statute    X Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder    ☐ Proposed by Staff

Criteria upon which subgrantees will be selected include:

- Degree of innovation in the educational vision.
- Strength of the proposed project team (including depth of community involvement and depth of parent involvement).
- Depth and usefulness of analysis of the community to be served.
- Likelihood of the proposed activities to accomplish the deliverables.
- Strength of the evaluation envisioned (including plans for systematic collection of data relevant for decision-making).

Bonus preference points will be awarded for teams proposing to develop secondary schools.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

- Developers desiring to become a public school academy that have not previously been awarded a competitive planning grant may apply for planning grants.
- PSAs that are chartered but have not been awarded a preoperational grant may apply for planning or implementation grants.
- Existing academies that have received preoperational grants may apply for continuation/implementation grants after they are open and serving students.
- PSAs that have been open at least three (3) consecutive years and have demonstrated overall success may apply for dissemination grants.

### **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Anticipated funding available during the next year of funding: \$9,351,356

### **STATUTE**

Title V, Part B, Public Charter Schools Program (PCSP), Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), 20 U.S.C. 7221a(e), Sections 5201–5211.

### **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

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